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different things.

"It's really a showcase of local talent," says Fomic, who is curating this year's Merry Mart with Jen Markelus of The East Bank.

MICA Art Market
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Dec. 9-10 at the Lady Atiam and Breyer Hall lobby of the Maryland Institute College of Art Brown Center, 320 W. Mt. Royal Ave. in Bolton Hill. Information: 410-685-3200 or micaarts.com
Here's the perfect chance to get in on the ground floor of some serious creativity, as scores of MICA students still feeling their way artistically will be selling their works during the school's fifth annual holiday sale. Buying some students' paintings may be just the encouragement they need to devote their lives to art.
"Here, you have the opportunity to support a young person's career path," says Sarah Z. Barresi, a ceramics and sculpture instructor at MICA who is curating this year's show. "You may help them make decisions about directions their lives are going to take."

More than 100 MICA students, alumni, faculty and staff will be participating in the show. Barresi promises plenty of items "you're not going to be able to find in any store at any price."

"Last year, for instance, she notes that items offered for sale included plant gardens, scarves, cast-iron skillets, voodoo dolls - even dog toys. The third of all proceeds from the sale goes to the school's scholarship fund (last year, nearly $20,000 was donated), with the remainder going to the artists themselves.

"You're going to find terrific art, she promises, from people who are passionate about their chosen field."

"We wanted to start a closer relationship with the local arts and crafts community and hopefully grow it into an annual event," says Mary Sheehan-Moore, buyer/manager for the BMA Shop. "We've always, in a sort of piecemeal fashion, had local vendors at various times as they fit into a particular story. But this time, the story is the artist."

More than 20 artists are represented. And while the Seaborn delannounces to pick favorites, Sheehan-Moore says she was particularly impressed by the work of three. Skill Salvation offers handmade baskets and other vessels inspired by the EMAS collection of collectible baskets. Sam Wallace creates vessels all sizes inspired by pottery and ceramic techniques represented in the museum. And Jennifer Willing's necklaces and earrings are evocative of Victorian silhouettes and emblems, although they depict not people but nature.

"Uniformly, I would say everybody really put thought into it," says Sheehan-Moore.